

Author Spotlight Alexander McCall Smith

Alexander McCall Smith was born in Zimbabwe in 1948 and was educated there and in Scotland. He became a law professor in Scotland, and it was in this role that he first returned to Africa to work in Botswana, where he helped to set up a new law school at the University of Botswana. He is currently Professor of Medical Law at the University of Edinburgh, but has been a visiting professor at a number of other universities elsewhere, including ones in Italy and the United States.

In addition to his university work, he is the vice-chairman of the Human Genetics Commission of the UK, the chairman of the British Medical Journal Ethics Committee, and a member of the International Bioethics Commission of UNESCO.

Over the past twenty years, McCall Smith has written more than fifty books, including specialist academic titles, short story collections, and a number of immensely popular children's books. McCall Smith is best known for his series featuring Mma Ramotswe, **The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency**. The series now numbers a total of six books (he is working on the seventh) and has been optioned for feature film. It has been enthusiastically received throughout the world, and foreign language editions will be appearing in numerous countries. He is the author of three other series, detailed below.

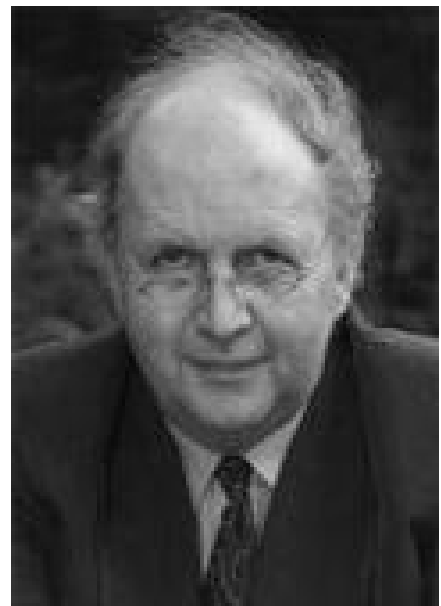
Today Alexander McCall Smith lives in Edinburgh with his wife Elizabeth (an Edinburgh doctor), their two daughters Lucy and Emily, and their cat Gordon. His hobbies include playing wind instruments, and he is the co-founder of an amateur orchestra called "The Really Terrible Orchestra" in which he plays the bassoon and his wife plays the flute.

The author's last name is **McCall Smith**, not Smith. Find his books shelved in the M's.

Books by Alexander McCall Smith

The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency Series

The No 1 Ladies' Detective Agency (1998)
Tears Of The Giraffe (2000)
Morality for Beautiful Girls (2001)
The Kalahari Typing School for Men (2002)
The Full Cupboard of Life (2003)
In the Company of Cheerful Ladies (2004)
The Good Husband of Zebra Drive (2007)



Professor Dr Moritz-Maria von Igelfeld Series

At the Villa of Reduced Circumstances (2003)

The Finer Points of Sausage Dogs (2003)

Portuguese Irregular Verbs (2003)

The Sunday Philosophy Club Series

The Sunday Philosophy Club (2004)

Friends, Lovers, Chocolate (2005)

The Right Attitude to Rain (2006)

44 Scotland Street Series

44 Scotland Street (2005)

Espresso Tales (2005)

Love Over Scotland (2006)

If you like books by Alexander McCall Smith, try some of these.

Mysteries set in foreign lands featuring clever, endearing detectives, and a splash of local color.

Christie, Agatha	Murder at the Vicarage
Cotterill, Colin	The Coroner's Lunch
Leon, Donna	Death at La Fenice
Vittachi, Nury	The Feng Shui Detective

Hero or heroine's knowledge of human nature, depiction of another culture, and gentle mysteries

M. C. Beaton - Her Hamish MacBeth stories are light mysteries with gentle humor. The solution of the mystery always relies on the detective's knowledge of human nature and the culture of the Scottish Highlands.

Agatha Christie - Precious Ramatswe always refers to Miss Marple when citing the advantage of female detectives. Miss Marple may be the all time champ at using knowledge of human nature combined with logic to solve the most devious cases.

Tony Hillerman - The Joe Leaphorn – Jim Cree novels also have a sense of place, in this case the Navajo reservation. The books feature the clash of traditional culture and religion with the increasingly modern and secular American society.